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**TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES
DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)
CONCERNING A SUBMISSION UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371**

ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER

206,871

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (if known, see 37 CFR 1.5)

10/524453

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.
PCT/EP2003/008821

INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE
08 August 2003 (8.08.2003)

PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED
09 August 2002 (9.08.2002)

TITLE OF INVENTION STAPLE FOR THE SUTURE OF THE STERNUM

APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US PURICELLI, Cesare, et al.

Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:

1. ☒ This is a **FIRST** submission of items concerning a submission under 35 U.S.C. 371.
2. ☐ This is a **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** submission of items concerning a submission under 35 U.S.C. 371.
3. ☒ This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)). The submission must include items (5), (6), (9) and (21) indicated below.
4. ☒ The US has been elected (Article 31).
5. ☒ A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))
 - a. ☐ is attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☒ has been communicated by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).
6. ☒ An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).
 - a. ☐ is attached hereto.
 - b. ☒ has been previously submitted under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).
7. ☒ Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3))
 - a. ☐ are attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☐ have been communicated by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
 - d. ☒ have not been made and will not be made.
8. ☐ An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
9. ☒ An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)).
10. ☐ An English language translation of the annexes of the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).

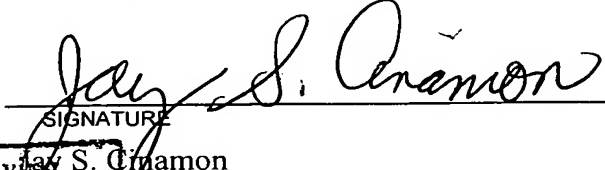


Items 11 to 20 below concern document(s) or information included:

11. ☐ An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
12. ☐ An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
13. ☒ A preliminary amendment.
14. ☐ An Application Data Sheet under 37 CFR 1.76.
15. ☐ A substitute specification.
16. ☐ A power of attorney and/or change of address letter.
17. ☐ A computer-readable form of the sequence listing in accordance with PCT Rule 13ter.2 and 37 CFR 1.821- 1.825.
18. ☐ A second copy of the published International Application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).
19. ☐ A second copy of the English language translation of the international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).
20. ☐ Other items or information:

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.414 and 1.491-1.492. The information (USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 C including gathering information, preparing, and submitting the completed form to the USPTO. of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FE Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

"EXPRESS MAIL" Label No.: ER 842 051 212 US
Date of Deposit: February 9, 2005 this correspondence is being
Deposited with the United States. Postal Service "Express Mail
Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR § 1.10 on the
date indicated above and addressed to: Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

U.S. APPLICATION NO. 107524453 (if known, see 37 CFR 1.53)		INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/EP2003/008821		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 206,871											
21. The following fees are submitted: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> a) Basic national fee..... \$300.00 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> b) Examination fee..... \$200.00 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> c) Search fee..... \$500.00 TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS = \$1000.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Additional fee for specification and drawings filed in paper over 100 sheets (excluding sequence listing or computer program listing filed in an electronic medium). The fee is \$250 for each additional 50 sheets of paper or fraction thereof.				<table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="width:50%;">Applicant use</th> <th style="width:50%;">Office use only</th> </tr> <tr> <td>\$ 300.00</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$ 200.00</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$ 500.00</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$ 1,000.00</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		Applicant use	Office use only	\$ 300.00		\$ 200.00		\$ 500.00		\$ 1,000.00	
Applicant use	Office use only														
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Total Sheets	Extra sheets	Number of each additional 50 or fraction thereof (round up to a whole number)	RATE												
- 100 =	/50 =		x \$250.00	\$ 0.00											
Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).				\$ 0.00											
CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE												
Total claims	14 - 20 =	0	x \$50.00	\$ 0.00											
Independent claims	3 - 3 =	0	x \$200.00	\$ 0.00											
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable)			+ \$360.00	\$ 0.00											
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =				\$ 1,000.00											
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27. The fees indicated above are reduced by 1/2.				\$ 500.00											
SUBTOTAL =				\$ 500.00											
Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)).				\$ 0.00											
TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =				\$ 500.00											
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property				\$ 40.00											
TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =				\$ 540.00											
Amount to be refunded:					\$										
Amount to be charged					\$										
a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of \$ 540.00 to cover the above fees is enclosed. b. <input type="checkbox"/> Please charge my Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed. c. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 01-0035 . A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed. d. <input type="checkbox"/> Fees are to be charged to a credit card. WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.															
NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the International Application to pending status.															
SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO: Jay S. Cinamon ABELMAN, FRAYNE & SCHWAB 150 East 42nd Street New York, NY 10017-5612 United States of America															
The PTO did not receive the following item(s) NO ASSIGNMENT Document 10				SIGNATURE  NAME Jay S. Cinamon											
				REGISTRATION NUMBER 24,156											